

Selectmen's Meeting
17 November 1997
7:00pm

The regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dick Wollmar, at 7:00pm. Those present included Allen Hines, George Lagassa (Selectmen), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

The Selectmen reviewed the previous meeting minutes and Mr. Hines voted to accept the minutes as published. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- Payroll
- Accounts payable
- Attorney Ryan's response to the HWW. Case Study "Appeal of the Milford Water Works."
- Coakley Landfill - SRF extension agreement with the DES
- Ruth Griffin - Executive Council Newsletter
- Treasurer's Report
- George Lagassa - completed his W4
- Media One - new & improved offerings

Michael Maloney was sworn in as the new Chief of Police in an official ceremony by the Town Clerk, Delores Chase.

Topics of Discussion

The first issue to be discussed concerned new police equipment. Chief Maloney explained that the department was changing equipment by going back to the old style 'night sticks'. This would result in both equipment and training savings over the longer term. Mr. McAllister explained that a transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,200 dollars from the PD retirement account into the PD equipment account would be necessary. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to transfer \$1,200 in funds from the PD retirement account (4210-10-230) into the PD equipment account (4210-10-740). Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The Board next discussed correspondence received from David Dunfey, representing the Country Club Estates homeowners association, regarding street lighting. A brief debate ensued over the manner by which the Town came to be responsible for the lighting costs in Country Club Estates. Concluding that it was difficult to establish the sequence of events for the streetlight billing, the Board continued to debate the issue on its other merits. The Board viewed the streetlights in Country Club Estates as an existing condition, but were hesitant to set a precedent of abandoning the streetlight replacement criteria established by the Highway Safety Committee. After considerable discussion Mr. Hines made the motion to accept David Dunfey's compromise position of fewer lights with the understanding that the lighting situation in Country Club Estates was a pre-existing condition of long standing and due to the pre-existing condition the Board was in no way establishing a precedent. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Review of the proposed 1998-99 budget was the next order of business addressed by the Board. The Town Administration category was reviewed with adjustments made to Training—up to \$3,500 from \$1,500, and Print/Forms—down to \$2,000 from \$4,000. Mr. Lagassa asked the TA to research the last line item. The next category of review was the Police Department with adjustments made to Health Insurance—down to \$42,000 from \$51,822. The Fire Department was next with adjustments made to Overtime—down to \$62,000 from \$64,000, Health Insurance—down to \$67,000 from \$70,000, and Vehicle Maintenance—

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down to \$10,000 from \$12,000. The line item for Paving & Asphalt under Road Maintenance was adjusted up to \$78,000 from \$74,000. An increase for Street Lighting—up to \$14,500 from \$12,000. Welfare and Health was reviewed with direction given to the TA to fully explore the requests for funding from the various agencies. The Library budget was reviewed and discussed with the recommendation to approve funding for \$155,000—down from the \$191,000 request. Last year's Library budget was \$141,353. Considerable discussion was given to capital improvements such as police cruisers, backhoe, and highway truck. The advantages of centralizing municipal offices over the Police Station were reviewed and discussed at length. Lower long-term operating and maintenance charges as well as a single point of contact were viewed as direct citizen benefits to the consolidation of municipal services under one roof. The Board agreed to place \$150,000 in capital improvements that would be financed with fund surplus for finishing the space above the Police Department.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator